possible assistance to the Indian exporters in the anti-dumping investigation at the diplomatic level.

Closure of Extension Centres in Kerala

6540. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether small industries service institute under Development Commissioner (SSI) have decided to close down their extension centres at shornur, Kozhikode, Muvattupuzha and Attingal in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to review their decision not to close down Extension Centres which are useful for SSI sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1992, a review of activities of SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation) was taken up and it was found that SSIs were not using the services of the Extension Centres sufficiently. As such since their utility was not there, 37 Extension Centres were decided to be closed down which include the Extension Centres in Kerala. Respective State Governments were offered to take over these Centres. They were closed only after no State came forward to continue the activities.

(c) and (d) The assets of Extension Centres at Shoranur have already been transferred to Municipal Council, Shoranur, that of Muvattupuzha to Telecommunication and that of Attingal to Science & Technology Development (STED) Project, respectively. As regards Extension Centre Calicut, decision has been taken to transfer the assets to STED and COWD. In order to avoid spreading the resources of SIDO too thinly, it is not freasible to restart or open such centres.

Modernisation of Legal System

6541. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive strategy to modernise and streamline the civil justice through computerisation and adoption of improved techniques/methods of management practices from drastic improvement in speedy disposal of cases;

(b) if so, the details of the plan under implementation/to be launched during the current year – State-wise and provision of funds therefor;

(c) the status of fresh court cases registered during 1996-97 previous backlog of cases and cases cleared State-wise and new strategies worked out State-wise for disposal of justice; and

(d) other judicial reforms finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Dry Fruits

6542. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of the dry-fruits exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of dry fruits during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Total quantity of dry-fruits such as cashewnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, figs dried, grapes (dried) and mixture of nuts exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value Rs. (Crores)
1994-95	83480	1305.90
1995-96	77375	1319.71
1996-97 (April-Sept'96)	39428	721.05

, The country-wise details of exports are available in the Annual Number of Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Some of the steps taken to promote exports of agricultural products including dry fruits are :-

(i) Providing financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;

(ii) Organising export promotion activities such as buyer-seller meets and participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions.

(iii) Monitoring of pesticide residues and provision of advisory services for control of pesticide use/ residue.

Government Nominees on the Board of Directors of PSUs

6543. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem under the captioned "PSU Boards plagued by Government nominees" appearing in the 'Observer of Business and Politics' New Delhi, dated March 6, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of Public Sector Undertakings which are having more than one Government nominees on the Board of Directors alongwith their names and since when each of them is on the Board of Directors, PSU-wise;

(c) the details of guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises in March, 1992 restricting limit to one nominee and also the recommendations of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for which these guidelines have not been implemented so far ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The relevant extract of the DPE Office Memorandum dated 16.3.1992 (as amended vide OM dated 13.11.1995) is given in the statement attached. The Arjun Sen Gupta Committee has not made any recommendation in regard to the number of Government Directors to be nominated on the Boards of Directors of Public Enterprises.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Extract from DPE OM No. 18 (6)/91-GM dated 16.3.1992 as amended vide OM dated 13.11.1995.

GOVERNMENT DIRECTORS :

(i) The number of the Government Directors on the Boards of Directors of an enterprise should not exceed one-sixth of the actual strength of the board.

(ii) It will be preferable to have only one Government Director from the concerned Administrative Ministry on each Board. The choice of the nominee Director would vest with the administrative Ministry of the concerned Department.

(iii) In case of PSEs where it is considered essential to give some representation on the Boards to other concerned Government agencies/Ministries State Governments, only one representative from the Group could also be appointed on the Board as Part-time Government Director.

(iv) The number of Government Directors on a Board should in no case exceed two.

Fuel Cell Technology by BHEL

6544. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (Research & Development) achieved a break through in power generation technology by successfully developing "Fuel cell technology" for the first time in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the budget amount released so far to develop the "fuel cell technology" in our country;

(c) whether the fuel cell technology has reached commercialised stage of production of non-conventional energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) had designed, developed, tested and demonstrated an indigenous phosphoric acid fuel cell stack of 1 KW rating in 1991. In 1995 two more stacks of 5 KW and 7.5 KW were demonstrated. The total amount spent till 1996-97 is as under :

Rs./Lakhs

Sl. No.	Fuel Cell Rating	Amount spent/Released BHEL	MNES	Total
1.	1 KW, 5 KW & 7.5 KW	184	69	253
2.	50 KW	44	65	109